



Ammanford
Urban District Council



MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH'S

REPORT

For 1958



Jones & Mainwaring (Printers) Ltd., Ammanford.

Ammanford Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. G. M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

Mr. E. V. COLLINS.

Clerical Assistant :

Miss HAZEL DAVIES.

Rodent Control Officer :

Mr. E. DAVIES.

Ammanford Urban District Council

AMMANFORD,

October, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my seventh Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

I am pleased to be able to report that it was another good year for health in the district, in spite of the fact that it was a particularly wet year.

There was a further drop in the estimated mid-year population, though the number of births increased from 74 to 99, making the birth rate higher than that for the County.

There was also a slight fall in the total number of deaths.

61% of the male deaths and 60% of the females were over 65 years. Heart disease was again the chief cause, although this year, all forms of respiratory diseases caused an equal number of the male deaths. Pneumoconiosis and the inclement weather were undoubtedly contributory factors.

My report has again been divided into two sections, and the second part has been prepared by the Public Health Inspector. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking him for his ready co-operation and assistance, and also the other Members of the Staff and the Council for their continued interest and support in the work of the Health Department.

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. HERBERT.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	...	...	944 Acres
Population (mid-year, 1958)	...	...	...	...	6,620
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,025

Number of houses completed in the Urban during 1958:—

(a) By the Council	...	...	...	...	1 house purchased and modernised
(b) By Private Building	...	...	...	...	3 houses
Ratable Value	...	...	...	...	£66,345
Net Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£248

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births—99 births were registered during the year, compared with 74 last year.

					M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	46	49	95
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
					—	—	—
					49	50	99
					M.	F.	Total
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
					—	—	—
					0	0	0

Total Live and Still Births:—

					M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	46	49	95
Illegitimate	3	1	4

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births:—

Ammanford	4.2
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Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford	14.95
Carmarthenshire	14.14
England and Wales	16.4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births:—

Ammanford	...	...	...	...	0.0
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	...	20.46
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	21.6

Infant Deaths.

For the third year in succession there were four infant deaths. They all occurred in Hospital within 3 days of birth. Two were premature twins, a day old; another premature baby also had a congenital defect and died shortly after birth. The fourth died on the 3rd day of intra cranial haemorrhage.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

						M.		F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	...	0	0
						<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
						3		1	4

Deaths under 4 weeks:—

						M.		F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	...	0	0
						<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
						3		1	4

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births:—

						Ammanford		Carmarthenshire		England and Wales
Under 4 weeks—	Legitimate	...	40.40	...					...
	Illegitimate		0.0	...					...
			<hr/>							
	Total	...	40.40	...	26.32				...	16.2
Under 1 year —	Legitimate	...	40.40	...					...
	Illegitimate		0.0	...					...
			<hr/>							
	Total	...	40.40	...	35.51				...	22.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY

This year again, there were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Live and Still-births:—

						Ammanford		Carmarthenshire		England and Wales
						0.0	...	0.0	...	0.43

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1958:

						M		F	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...				1	...	0	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...		0	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...			0	...	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases						1	...	0	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...		9	...	9	18
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...		0	...	0	0

Intra-Cranial Vascular Diseases	...	7	...	5	...	12
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	11	...	9
Heart Disease	...	...	...	2	...	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	3	...	5
Influenza	...	...	...	1	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	...	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	...	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	9	...	0
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	...	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	0	...	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	1	...	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	...	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1	...	0
Suicide	...	...	...	1	...	0
Other Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	5	...	4
				57		43
						100

There was a slight decrease in the number of deaths from 104 last year.

The main cause of death was again due to heart disease, followed by cancer and all forms of respiratory disease.

The age distribution in the older age groups is very similar to the previous year.

61% of the male deaths and 60% of the females were over 65 years of age.

40% of the male deaths and 51% of the females were over 70 years of age.

25% of the male deaths and 40% of the females were over 75 years of age.

11% of the male deaths and 30% of the females were over 80 years of age.

Nearly 2% of the male deaths and 2½% of the female deaths were over 90 years of age.

Cancer.

There was an increase in the female deaths from cancer, but the male deaths were reduced. There were two male deaths compared with four the previous year from lung cancer, in contrast to the country as a whole where the number of deaths was the highest recorded for this form of the disease.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:—

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
15.11	13.87	11.7

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER:

Sites and Ages	50-54		55-59		60-64		65-69		70-79		Over 80		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lung					1		1						2	
Stomach	1			1			1		1	1		1	2	4
Colon				1							1		1	1
Bladder									1					1
Uterus		1					1							2
Other Sites					1	2			2				4	1
TOTAL	1	1		2	1	1	3	2	3	2	1	1	9	9

Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford
2.72

Carmarthenshire
2.16

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Notifications received during 1958 ... Total 24

The outbreak of Influenza, due to the Asian strain of the virus, which commenced in the Autumn of 1957, continued into the early months of 1958. It remained a fairly mild infection and caused only one death.

A number of cases of Measles occurred in the early Spring but this was general throughout the country.

For the second year in succession, no cases of whooping cough were notified and no cases of poliomyelitis.

CLASSIFICATION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Carmarthenshire				1958	Ammanford	
	1957	1958	1959	1960		1958	1957
Measles	1,731	20	3
Scarlet Fever	—	3	1
Whooping Cough	42	—	—
Pneumonia	114	1	3
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0

Food Poisoning—No cases were reported during the year.

DIPHTHERIA AND IMMUNISATIONS

For the twelfth year in succession, no Diphtheria occurred in the Area, but cases, with deaths continued to occur in the country. This is a reminder that it is still possible for the disease to recur in this area—after an absence of twelve years—if the level of immunity is not maintained. Parents should ensure that their babies and young children are protected by immunisation, which can be obtained from the Family Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic, held weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

During the past year most of those immunised received a combined injection protecting them against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

The numbers immunised thus were:—

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	25
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	0
Boosters	...	...	...	...	...	0
Immunised against Diphtheria only	...	...	...	...	...	28
Immunised against Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	22

VACCINATIONS

Smallpox—Vaccination against this disease is also done by the Family Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic. Separate figures for the area are not available, but 1,140 children under one year were vaccinated in the whole County—estimated as 47.62% of the registered births for the year.

BCG. Vaccination.

Separate figures for this area are not available, the figures for the whole County are—

School Children Scheme

Number skin tested	}	Nil, due to poliomyelitis vaccination.
Number found negative		
Number vaccinated		

Contact Scheme.

Number skin tested	...	...	1,875
Number found negative	...	...	595
Number vaccinated	...	...	537

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the County during the year. Vaccination was extended to include persons up to 25 years of age, expectant mothers and others in the Health Service.

	Number received		Number received
	2 injections		1 injection
Children under 15	14,347
15-25 years of age	744
Expectant Mothers	418
Others	133

Total number of children under 15 years of age vaccinated since the introduction of the scheme—23,149 (65% of those eligible).

TUBERCULOSIS

Four new cases were notified during the year, all males. There was also one transfer from an adjoining area, a female patient previously notified as suffering from respiratory disease. There were no cases of non-respiratory disease.

There was only one death, a male suffering from respiratory disease, only notified in this district after his death.

Tuberculosis Rates:—

				Case Rates					Death Rates
A.U.D.C. ...	...	Resp.	0.60	...	Resp.	0.15	Non-Resp.	0.0	0.0
C.C.C. ...	...	Resp.	0.85	...	Resp.	0.12	Non-Resp.	—	—

The Mass Radiography Unit was stationed in the Urban for a few days and reported their findings.

Analysis of other abnormalities of the chest not requiring further observation:

A. Tuberculous Abnormalities

	Male	Female	Total
Healed Primary Tuberculosis ...	—	1	1
Healed Post Primary Tuberculosis ...	5	6	11

B. Non-Tuberculous Abnormalities

1. Abnormality of the bony thorax and soft tissues ...	1	2	3
2. Malignant Neoplasm ...	—	—	—
3. Acquired cardiac abnormalities and abnormalities of the vascular system ...	4	8	12
4. Pneumoconiosis: without P.M.F. (Stage 1, 2 or 3 to be indicated)			
Stage 1 — 15			
Stage 2 — 74			
Stage 3 — 31 ...	120	—	120
5. Pneumoconiosis: with P.M.F. ...	35	—	35
6. Pulmonary Fibrosis—non-tuberculous (to include Asthma, Bronchitis) ...	10	3	13
7. Emphysema ...	4	—	4
8. Pleural thickening or calcification ...	1	3	4
9. Malformation of the lungs (to include lobar malformation and honey-comb lung ...)	—	1	1
TOTALS ...	180	24	204

Mass Radiography Survey

Ammanford General Population, June, 1958.

	Grand Total	Under 15		15 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 59		60 & over		Totals	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total number examined ...	2610	28	56	170	251	210	220	267	264	397	390	209	148	1281	1329
Number found to be abnormal ...	220 or 8.43%				3	3	4	35	3	86	18	63	5	187	33
Classification of abnormal cases:—															
(a) Requiring further observation ...	16 or .61%							1		4	8	2	1	7	9
(b) Other abnormalites of the chest ...	204 or 7.82%				3	3	4	34	3	82	10	61	4	180	24

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

There was no action under this Act during the year, as the few cases reported to be in need of care and attention eventually agreed to voluntary admission to Hospital.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Once again we welcomed a small group of Students, holding United Nations Scholarships for a Course at Swansea University. Before starting, they spent three weeks here studying various aspects of our way of life. Amongst many other activities they were given a talk on our Health Services. I have received a letter of thanks from the University Organiser, expressing their appreciation.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

The following Clinics are held at the County Clinic premises in High Street, Ammanford.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Weekly on Thursday morning.

Post Natal Clinic—Alternative Thursday afternoons.

Infant Welfare—This Clinic is now held weekly, on Tuesday afternoons.

Orthopaedic—Monday (morning and afternoon).

Chest Clinic—This Clinic has now been transferred to the Amman Valley Hospital, Outpatients Department, and is held there weekly on Friday morning.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

National Welfare Foods are distributed at the Wesleyan School Room every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, from 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

MIDWIVES

There are two qualified Midwives practising in the area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A County Ambulance and Car are stationed at the new Ambulance Station in High Street.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

The report is similar to that of previous years and gives a broad outline of the wide and varied nature of the responsibilities and duties of the department.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily.

For the past few years the new scheme of re-organisation has been working, and the new Reservoirs ensure a plentiful and regular supply over the whole district.

The Water is sampled by the Loughor Joint Water Board and reports are satisfactory. The entire population is served direct.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Sewers have functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, which is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. There being four constituent Authorities to the constitution of the Sewerage Board, namely, Ammanford Urban District Council, The Urban District Council of Cwmamman and The Rural District Councils of Llandeilo and Pontardawe.

The proposed improvements to the Disposal Works was the subject of a Public Inquiry held at the Minor Hall, Ammanford, on the 29th May, 1958, by N. Robertson, Esq., B.E., B.Sc., M.I.C.E., of the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Subsequently, the Boards' proposals were rejected by the Ministry, who recommended certain amendments.

Two cases of flooding were reported in the domestic sewerage system, but this was proved to be the surcharging by the Boards' Trunk Sewer.

The anti-flood valve which was fitted to a domestic length of sewer last year has proved to be satisfactory.

RIVERS, etc., POLLUTION

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present

is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by precipitation before discharge and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	2100
No. of houses with Closet on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	1
No. of houses with Closet built on the Conservancy System not able to connect to Sewers	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse, when collected, it tipped at Gelligweirdy and Rhydymaerdy. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by burying on the Council tips.

There has been some improvement in the type of receptacles in use, but it is my constant desire to see every house provided with a standard dust-bin with a close fitting lid.

Both refuse disposal tips have been kept in a sanitary condition and are adequately fenced to prevent trespass and animals straying on the tips.

The tips have been visited and inspected on 132 occasions.

PRIVIES, CESSPITS, etc.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their garden, and the Cesspits being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

No. of Inspections made for Nuisance	454
No. of Properties repaired as the result of verbal action ...	12
No. of Informal Notices served	36
No. of Statutory Notices served	16
No. of Abatement Orders through Magistrates' Court ...	3
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	32
No. of Water Leakage Notices	2
No. of Properties repaired as the result of Official action ...	64

HOUSING ACT, 1957

No. of proposals accepted as result of Time and Place	
Meetings	3
No. of Demolition Notices served	3
No. of families re-housed	2
No. of houses acquired by Local Authority	3

CAMPING SITES

There are no Licences now in force. There are no suitable sites within the Urban Area. One caravan was cleared from the area for unauthorised camping.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT (SMOKE ABATEMENT)

Only two complaints were registered under this heading which were satisfactorily dealt with.

The majority of house holders use anthracite coal, which is practically smokeless.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools in the Urban Area. Every effort is made during the Summer months to discourage school children from bathing in the local rivers.

SCHOOLS

There are five schools in the area and one private Commercial School, the Principal of the latter School has acquired a new building which is a vast improvement on the building used for this purpose previously. The sanitary condition of the Council Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the sewers and with an abundant supply of water from the mains.

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT

There are three places of amusement which are inspected regularly.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO
CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

There are no common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings or Tenaments in the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD
SUPPLY MILK

No. of Dairies in the Urban Area	...	...	4
No. of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	...	...	4
No. of Inspections made	...	...	42
No. of Vehicles inspected	...	...	38

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is good.

From the date of de-control in July, 1954, one Slaughterhouse has been licensed.

The major portion of the meat consumed in the Town is purchased from the Farmers' Meat Corporation, and the quality is excellent.

FOOD—CLASSIFIED PREMISES

	No.	Inspections
Butchers' Shops	9	78
Provision Shops	33	83
Fried Fish Shops	7	46
Ice-Cream Premises	17	28
Cafes	7	46
Bakehouses	5	40
Public Houses	13	43
Dairies	4	20
Slaughterhouses	1	140
Clubs and Factory Canteens	7	43
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	4	59
Food Vehicles		46

No. of Notices served *re* Unsatisfactory conditions ... 3

No. of Notices complied with 3

No. of Food Stores provided with Washing Facilities ... 8

No. of Food Vans provided with Washing Facilities ... 21

Posters issued by the Ministry of Health emphasising the importance of Food Hygiene have been displayed in all food shops.

All condemned food is collected by the Council's lorry and disposed of by burying on the Council's tip.

ICE CREAM HEAT TREATMENT REGULATIONS 1947-52

Only two firms manufacture and retail. These two firms have the prescribed equipment required by the above Regulations. The remainder sell pre-wrapped from deep freeze carbolic containers.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have been brought to the notice of all Food Traders, who are co-operating.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

No. of Carcases inspected:—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	198
Calves	...	...	...	...	5
Sheep	...	...	...	...	813
Pigs	...	...	...	...	416

CONDEMNATIONS

Total condemnations of Carcases—Nil.

No. of Carcases affected with Cysticerci—Nil.

					Weight
No. of Beasts' Livers	...	...	17	— Cirrhosis	155 lbs.
No. of Beasts' Heads	...	...	1	— Actinomycosis	35 lbs.
No. of Sheep Livers	...	...	5	— Fluke Infestation	20 lbs.
No. of Pigs' Livers	...	...	10	— Cirrhosis	50 lbs.
No. of Pigs' Heads	...	...	3	— Tuberculosis lesions in Submaxillary Gland	28 lbs.
53½ lbs. Beef	...	...	...	— Bone taint	
14 lbs. Pork	...	...	...	— Bruised	
30 lbs. Bacon	...	...	...	— Deep seated abscess	
20 lbs. Cod Fillets	...	...	...	— Decomposed	
46 lbs. Kippers	...	...	...	— Decomposed	
80 lbs. Frozen Salmon	...	...	...	— Decomposed	
119 lbs. Carrots	...	...	...	— Frosted	
1904 lbs. Potatoes	...	...	...	— Frosted	
144 lbs. Grapes	...	...	...	— Rotten	
288 tins various Food Stuffs	...	...	...	— Blown	
14 lbs. Cheese	...	...	...	— Infested with Mites	

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No. of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious diseases	6
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FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

No. of Factories on the Register	49
No. of Inspections made	122

All defects brought to the notice of Factory Owners and Managements were attended to.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The Council own 384 Houses, which are regularly inspected.

THE RENT ACT, 1957 (RENT RESTRICTION REGULATIONS)

This Act became Law on the 1st July, 1957. The Public Health Inspector was appointed Rent Advisory Officer to the Council for the purpose of advising the Public on the implications of the Act.

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE

Work has continued on the control of the Rat population, the added powers given to Local Authorities, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act being of particular value.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS 1928/1955

The Public Health Inspector is also designated Petroleum Officer and the Council have adopted the Model Code of Conditions for the storage of Petroleum Spirit. All storage tanks have been tested in accordance with the Regulations and safety measures applied.

G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

E. V. COLLINS, P.H.I.

